

BOND, JAMES BOND
UNWRAPPING THE ENIGMA OF WIKILEAKS
{page 8}

LEBRON REHASHES BREAKUP
NO HOMECOMING CROWN TONIGHT {page 34}



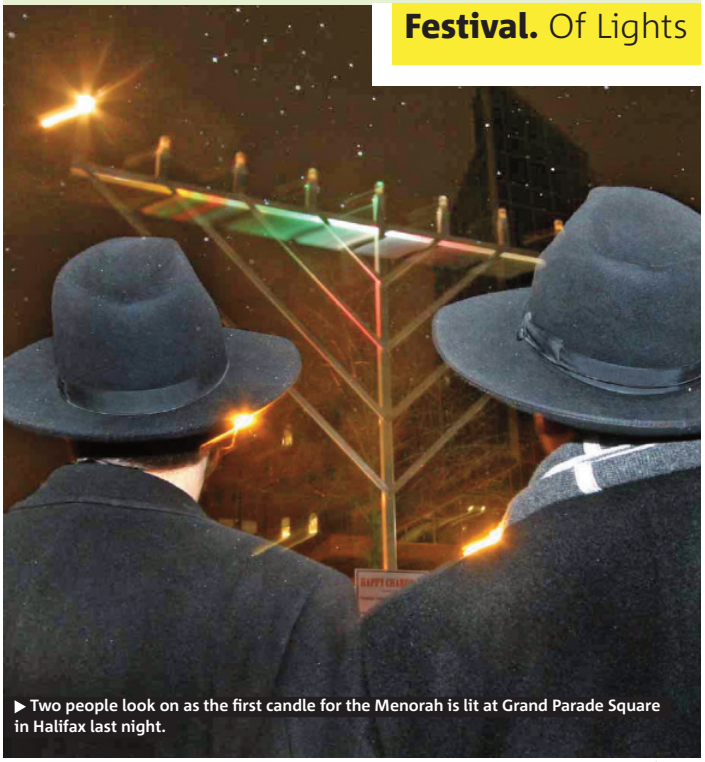
BELIEBE IT
JUSTIN SCORES FIRST GRAMMY NOD SCENE {page 15}



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Festival. Of Lights



▶ Two people look on as the first candle for the Menorah is lit at Grand Parade Square in Halifax last night.

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO

Light it up for Hanukkah

Halifax Regional Municipality held the candle lighting to celebrate the start of Hanukkah, which began last night. Mayor Peter Kelly was on hand, along with members of Halifax regional council.

Getting the Order of Nova Scotia

Vocal human rights activist left speechless {page 4}

Will the Grinch steal Christmas?

Barricade your place using the gift guide {page 25-31}

Winter to give us a rain check?

- **Precipitation hard to predict, we don't differentiate between rain and snow: Environment Canada**
- **Winter officially begins in three weeks on Dec. 21**



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

If you like snow, this is a bad news story.

Environment Canada released its winter predictions yesterday and it looks like every region of Nova Scotia will be either normal or warmer than normal in the next three months.

"But people should not get the impression you're getting off scot-free," said David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada. "It means by the end of the December, if we're right, it will be warmer than normal another month."

La Nina's warm waters made it all the way to Halifax, which makes for a weaker winter.

It will be a slow start to winter, but there will be snow and storms ahead, he promised.

"There's a feeling out there that oh boy, are we going to pay for this? Nature is going to clobber us," he said, adding reassuringly there is no allotment of winter days.

By this time, Halifax should have had 17 centimetres of snow and we've only had five centimentres — way less (and warmer) than Victoria, B.C.

"You want that easing in because it reminds people to get their snow tires on, find out where their snow pants and scrapers are and winterize the car. If you get dumped with a Paul Bunyan snowfall it creates the chaos."

It's sad news indeed for John Cameron, general manager of the Snowmobilers Association of Nova Scotia. He said he's sure there will be some good snow spots in the province this winter.

"Some people will be very disappointed but I'm optimistic and I'll do my snow dance a little harder."

Dreaming of white Christmas?

- There's a 47 per cent chance of a white Halifax Christmas this year.
- The past three Christmases were white, meaning there was at least two centimetres of snow on the ground on Dec. 25.
- "It will come down to a crap shoot: Roll the dice or flip a coin," said Phillips.

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Half-hour of fear at the walk-in

A woman was left shaken after a man grabbed her at a Halifax walk-in clinic yesterday.

Police were called to the Professional Centre at 5991 Spring Garden Rd. at 1:15 p.m.

A man entered the reception area of the Family Focus office. Police say he grabbed a female employee when she tried to leave, but she was able to escape by going over the counter.

"She was grabbed but wasn't injured. Obviously, probably shaken up, but I don't believe there were any physical injuries," said Const. Brian Palmeter.

At first, the man refused to leave the office, but he surrendered to police in about half an hour.

Palmeter said there was no mention of a weapon and everyone in the office was moved yo safety.

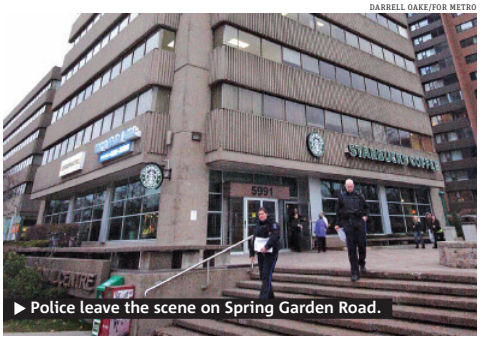
The man is in custody, but no charges have been laid.

"We are ... exploring whether this could be a medical situation," said Palmeter.

JENNIFER TAPLIN
WITH FILES FROM PHILIP CROUCHER

For more local news, visit metronews.ca/local

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO



▶ Police leave the scene on Spring Garden Road.

A vacant lot can be a thing of beauty

Urban farm at old QEH could be a model for making Halifax's many vacant lots shining 'people places'

The planned urban farm on the site of the former Queen Elizabeth High School could include market spaces, a therapeutic garden and a Mi'kmaq medicine wheel.

About 50 people attended last night's follow-up to November's public brainstorming session on how to best make use of the space.

Billy Lewis of the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre said he hopes a corner of the garden can be used to grow sacred herbs.

"It'd really be nice to have a place where we could show all of the medicinal plants we have and have it in the form of a medicine circle," he said.

Frank Palermo, professor at Dalhousie University's schools of architecture and planning, said the farm taps into wide community interest.

"It's really only going to happen if the community continues to be interested, engaged and involved — and works on it," he said.

Capital Health said the first meeting generated nine "guiding principles."

Among them:

It should be used yearround, act as a model for developing vacant sites, have multiple uses, be safe, be sustainable and benefit the broader community.

JON TATTRIE

And it's healthy

- When Capital Health eventually builds on the site, it could incorporate parts of the farm.
- Studies show access to nature improves health.

METRO



▶ How to make use of this space? The community looks for answers.

Police say 17-year-old linked to two stolen vehicles

A 17-year-old male youth is facing several charges in relation to the stealing of two vehicles.

Halifax Regional Police say the thefts took place about six weeks apart.

The first was on Oct. 8 in Halifax, police say, and the second on Nov. 23 in Dartmouth.

The youth was arrested on Tuesday night in relation to an outstanding warrant.

Police claim they have been able to link him to the two stolen vehicles.

The male was scheduled to appear in Halifax youth court yesterday.

He is charged with theft, possession of stolen property and taking a motor vehicle without consent.

METRO

Roller hockey boy hit by van

An 11-year-old boy playing roller hockey in the street has been struck by a van.

His injuries are said to be "potentially life-threatening."

The boy was playing on Irving Street in Dartmouth around 3:30 p.m. on Monday when a van rolled through.

"The boy was on one side of the street and the group (of kids) was on the other," said Const. Brian Palmeter. "He was struck by the van and it continued on."

Police found the van a short time later.

The driver and passenger said they didn't know they had hit the child.

Palmeter said the driver was very distressed to learn he hit the boy.

"At first we didn't believe his injuries were as serious as they are and (they have been) categorized as potentially life-threatening."

JENNIFER TAPLIN

Aftermath

- Police want to speak with anyone who may have seen the incident.
- Charges? "Our focus right now is hoping the boy recovers," said Const. Brian Palmeter.

1 news

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A shocking video of a police strip search may be part of a larger problem. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor

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Five different ways to make a difference

2010 Order of Nova Scotia inductees represent excellence in their respective fields: Lt.-Gov. Mayann Francis Awards in their 10th year

COMMUNICATIONS NOVA SCOTIA



Rocky Jones receives his Order of Nova Scotia from Lt-Gov. Mayann Francis at Province House yesterday.

ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

By his own admission, it's not often that Burnley (Rocky) Jones is short of words.

But minutes after receiving the Order of Nova Scotia yesterday, Dr. Jones had trouble expressing just what the honour meant to him. "It's awesome. It's absolutely awesome," said the 69-year old lawyer and activist.

Jones has spent years fighting for racial equality and justice, playing an integral role in the creation of two Dalhousie University programs — the Transition Year Program and the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq Initiative.

Jim Hill, one of the two founders of the Christmas Daddies Telethon, joined Jones and three others in receiving the prestigious honour.

Hill, an award-winning television producer and news director, started the telethon after helping an eight-year-old panhandler buy food for his family. Hill passed away earlier this year, and his award was accepted by his son.

Chalmers Doane, a longtime music educator and former director of Symphony Nova Scotia, was also honoured yesterday.



"They have made and continue to make a positive change."
PREMIER DARRELL DEXTER, ON THIS YEAR'S ORDER OF NOVA SCOTIA RECIPIENTS

Doane's method of employing a ukulele as an entry-level instrument was adopted in schools across North America and contributed to a significant increase in the number of students in school bands.

St. Peter's native Eva Landry became the first female superintendent of schools in 1979 and the first female inspector of schools a year later. She has spent 50-years as a 4-H leader, 25 as a volunteer with hearing and speech centres.

Rev. William Pope rounds out the distinguished group. A minister and care-facility manager, Pope wrote a book about his son Robert's battle with cancer. The book, Illness and Healing, is given to first-year medical students.

Pope's award was accepted by his widow, Isabel.

Parking after dark downtown

Halifax Waterfront Corporation is once again selling space for commuters to park their cars overnight while the municipality's parking ban is in effect.

"Park After Dark" started yesterday and charges a $6 flat rate for parking from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. at four lots along Lower Water Street. Commuters can also choose between a $3-per-hour rate and increments of 10 minutes for shorter visits.

In addition, the service will be offered year-round.

The program was piloted last year in response to demand for downtown parking during the winter parking ban. Starting Dec. 15, parking will no longer be permitted in HRM streets overnight.

● METRO

Found a spot!

"Park After Dark" lots located on Lower Water Street:

- Cable Wharf
- Queen's Landing
- Foundation Place
- Cunard

N.S. eyes cuts to clear-cutting

A new strategy for the management of Nova Scotia's forests would limit the amount of wood removed through clear-cutting to less than 50 per cent over a five-year period.

Natural Resources Minister John MacDonell says all commercial harvests would have to register with his department and would be required to make annual progress reports under the plan.

MacDonell has said about 95 per cent of forestry harvesting in Nova Scotia is done through clear-cutting for a total of 40,000 hectares a year.

The new policy would also look at implementing a provincewide allowable cut limit, although there are no details about what limits are under consideration. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Saving the soil

- The policy would also prohibit the removal of a whole tree from the forest in order to maintain the soil, although the harvesting of Christmas trees would be exempt.

DRIVING

S. Korean licences to be valid in province

People from South Korea living and working in Nova Scotia will soon be able to get behind the wheel of a car without taking a road test here.

The Nova Scotia government announced yesterday they are set to sign what they call a reciprocity agreement, which will allow South Koreans to exchange a valid driver's licence for a Nova Scotia one upon moving here.

As part of the agreement, the same will hold true for Nova Scotians living and working in South Korea.

The province is already accepting driver's licences from the United States and Germany without requiring a written or road test. ● METRO

Atlantic businesses optimistic

A national lobby group says small-business owners in Atlantic Canada were among the most confident in Canada last month.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business released its Business Barometer Index yesterday; it contains ratings of optimism across Canada in November.

An index level above 50 means there are more owners who expect their businesses to strengthen over the next year than those who anticipate weaker performances.

The federation says the index levels for the four Atlantic provinces fell between 66 and 68.6. Nova Scotia ranked second in the Atlantic region, after Newfoundland, with a 68.8 rating. Alberta ranked the highest at 75.1, while Quebec was at the bottom of the list at 60.9.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Boston to light Nova Scotia tree

CHRISTMAS. A holiday tradition continues tonight when a Nova Scotia tree is lit on the Boston Common. Each year since 1971, the province sends a Christmas tree to the people of Boston to recognize them for their help following the Halifax Explosion on Dec. 6, 1917. This year's tree is a 15-metre white spruce from Gary and Roseann Misner of King's County. ● METRO

New CEO for credit union

BUSINESS. Marie Mullally has been named president and CEO of Credit Union Atlantic. She takes over the position on Jan. 17.

Mullally has stepped down as president and CEO of the Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation. Steve MacDonald, the vice president of Gaming Operations, is now the acting president and CEO. ● METRO

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Heritage advocates may get more time

Amendments to Heritage Property Act will 'modernize' legislation, extend consultation timeframe



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

If amendments to the Heritage Property Act are accepted, it will soon take longer to substantially alter or demolish a heritage building.

Amendments proposed yesterday by Tourism, Culture and Heritage Minister Percy Paris would increase the time municipalities have to consider applications for "substantial alterations" or demolition of heritage buildings.

"Many people agree that a one-year time period to consider applications for substantial alteration or demolition of a municipally registered heritage property is too short," said Paris.

Once the current one-year delay expires, he added, the property is demolished "without time for a true dialogue."

Neither Paris nor tourism staff offered a specific example of such a case. But Heritage Trust president Peter Delefus said his organization may have been able to save the old Irving Garage on Sackville Street, demolished in 1999.

"We weren't able to save that building, but perhaps if we had an extended period we might have entered into a dialogue."

Delefus said the amendments are a first step toward increased heritage preservation. He said his organization offered advice on the legislation and that all their recommendations were accepted.

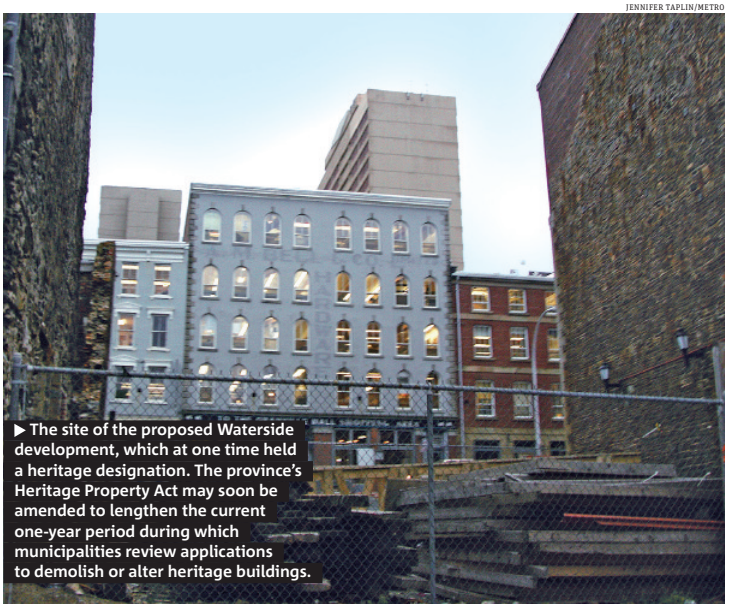
"We're really quite pleased about that, particularly the three-year delay in demolition … (which) provide us with an opportunity to enter into a dialogue."

Fine print

Should the amendments pass, tourism staff will begin work on clarifying the characteristics of heritage properties.

For instance, while a property's association with a historical figure or event may have heritage value, the building's architecture may not.

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO



The site of the proposed Waterside development, which at one time held a heritage designation. The province's Heritage Property Act may soon be amended to lengthen the current one-year period during which municipalities review applications to demolish or alter heritage buildings.

N.S., N.B. cautious in hailing federal commitment to ferries

The Nova Scotia and New Brunswick governments are cautiously welcoming federal funding to continue the operation of three ferry services in the Maritimes.

But they say they are reserving further judgment until they see more details of the arrangement.

Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter said yesterday he was relieved Ottawa is promising $51 million for three ferry routes until at least March 2014. But Dexter said he will remind Ottawa that maintaining the region's transportation links are its constitutional responsibility.

He also said the funding arrangement should be beyond three years.

"The best way for businesses to be able to take advantage of the fact that service is there is to know that it's going to be there for the long term," Dexter said.

New Brunswick Economic Development Minister Paul Robichaud said continuation of the ferry service would be good news for his province but that he needs more details before fully supporting it.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Routes

The services involve routes between Digby and Saint John, N.B., and between Wood Islands, P.E.I. and Caribou, among others.

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Canada-U.S. Iraq tensions Wikileaked

Latest release says U.S. plan was to share secret information about the war only with Britain and Australia

WIKI LEAKS

A newly released diplomatic note says Canada protested to the United States about being cut out of the intelligence loop as "punishment" for not joining the war in Iraq.

The classified, November 2004 cable from the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa warned Washington the "potential irritant" might come up during a Canadian visit by then-president George Bush.

It is just one issue cited by American diplomats who flagged Canada's "habitual inferiority complex" for the State Department — a recurring theme in several cables posted yesterday on the website of online whistleblower WikiLeaks.

WikiLeaks says as many as 2,648 documents about Canada are among the quarter-million it plans to release in coming days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revealing

Some of the latest developments in the ongoing WikiLeaks saga:

- **France** President Nicolas Sarkozy is cast as an authoritarian leader surrounded by aides who don't dare challenge him.
- **China** One of the biggest Internet policers, China blocked the WikiLeaks site to avoid potentially embarrassing claims in its leaked U.S. diplomatic memos.

Weather. Travel



▶ Pedestrians run through an intersection during heavy rain and wind yesterday in New York.

BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storms cause havoc at N.Y. airports

Flights were delayed up to five hours at New York City's three major airports as fast-moving storms and powerful winds battered large swathes of New York.

Fact or fiction?

The flap began on the website Kottke.org.

- Blogger Jason Kottke speculated that NASA might announce it had found bacterial life on Titan, Saturn's largest moon.

Life in space rumours

Speculation that life has been discovered beyond Earth exploded on the Internet after NASA announced plans for a briefing involving scientists who study unusual life forms.

The paper will be a disappointment to those speculating about its contents.

It does not report finding life outside of Earth, according to science writers who have seen the paper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woman hanged in Iran for murdering rival

Iran yesterday hanged a former soccer player's mistress — known as a "temporary wife" — who was convicted of murdering her love rival, the player's wife, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Shahla Jahed was hanged at dawn, after spending more than eight years in jail, IRNA said, in a case that has captivated the Iranian public for several years.

Jahed had become what is known as a "temporary wife" of former soccer star Nasser Mohammad Khani. She was charged in 2002 with stabbing to death Laleh Saharkhizan, the player's wife, and convicted of murder in 2004 and again in 2009, after her appeal was denied.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Shahla Jahed.

The IRNA report said that just before the hanging at Tehran's Evin prison, the 40-year-old Jahed prayed peacefully, then burst into tears and cries, shouting for her life to be spared.

The victim's son pulled the chair from under her feet as Jahed gasped for breath in the remaining moments of her life, the khabaronline.ir news website said. The former soccer striker, Khani, also attended the hanging.

The reports also said that judiciary officials spent almost an hour in talks with Saharkhizan's family before the hanging, trying to convince them to spare Jahed's life but were unsuccessful.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iranian law

Contracts with "temporary wives" are a legal way for Iranian men to have mistresses outside marriage

- Wednesday's death sentence was based on the Islamic law of "qisas" — or eye for an eye retribution.

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Founder cuts a mysterious figure

Whistleblower site's Julian Assange called both the 'James Bond of journalism' and a 'social misfit'

MARTIAL TREZZINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, seen on Nov. 4 in Geneva, Switzerland.

WIKI LEAKS

Julian Assange has come a long way from an unsettled childhood in Australia as a self-acknowledged social misfit.

After founding WikiLeaks in 2006, Assange adopted an elusive lifestyle, spending long periods in hiding, shuttling from one country to another, and mixing brief public appearances with "appearing" remotely for interviews and panel discussions by video link over the Internet.

At times, he has also altered his appearance, dyeing his prematurely white hair blonde, then black, and cutting it short.

Amid the controversy over the release of Afghan documents this past summer, he flew to Sweden, seeking a residence permit and protection under that country's broad press freedoms. His initial welcome was euphoric.

"They called me the James Bond of journalism," he recalled wryly.

Assange's lawyer charged yesterday that Assange is being persecuted by Swedish authorities who have accused him of rape and other sex crimes in a case that prompted Interpol to place him on its most-wanted list.

According to accounts his accusers gave to the police and friends, the women both had consensual sexual encounters with Assange that became non-consensual.

One woman said that Assange had ignored her appeals to stop after a condom broke.

The other woman said that she and Assange had begun a sexual encounter using a condom, but Assange did not comply with her appeals to stop.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bond-style

- Julian Assange married when he was 18 and has a son. He and his wife separated and in 1999, after a protracted court battle, reached a custody agreement.
- Assange communicates with friends and colleagues with encrypted cellphones. He is known to travel under false names, to wear disguises and to use cash instead of credit or debit cards.
- Assange's exact whereabouts are unknown (one report suggests he's hiding outside London), although he has conducted online interviews with some media organizations from undisclosed locations.
- Assange pleaded guilty in 1996 to 24 counts of violating the Crimes Act, commonly known as hacking.

Assange no stranger to life on the move

It isn't just lately that Julian Assange has been on the run.

The WikiLeaks founder has led a troubled and interesting life so far.

Julian Paul Assange is an Australian who studied at the University of Melbourne. He has no home but spends much of his time in Sweden.

Assange describes his childhood as "pretty Tom Sawyer" and says he liked to fish and explore mine shafts. Despite that, he seems to have had a troubled childhood.

Assange was home-schooled, in part because his family moved 37 times by the time he was 14.

He spent part of his teen years on the run with his mother from an abusive boyfriend, who may have been a member of a cult called the Family.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rogers' centre of attention

Company targets Maple Leafs, Raptors and Toronto FC for buyout

Rumours that Blue Jays owner Rogers Communications Ltd. is also seeking to buy Toronto's professional hockey, basketball and soccer teams has reignited a smouldering debate over who will control access to Canada's most valuable sports and entertainment content.

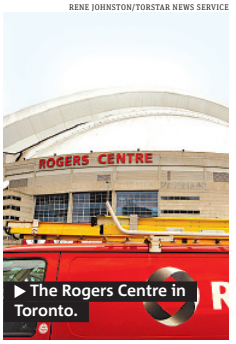
The same issues came up when BCE Inc. said earlier this year that it would reacquire control of the CTV media business and by the purchase of the Canwest television business by Shaw Communications Inc.

Having exclusive control over sports as the team owner — from live games broadcasts, Internet streaming, specialized sports chatrooms, email team alerts and mobile applications still being dreamed up — would boost revenue potential at Rogers' big wireless, cable TV, radio and TV broadcasting and magazine and online businesses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"For a company like Rogers, and companies like them, they're trying to enhance their 'access' offers. They're trying to enhance their wireless, television and Internet offers."
MARKET CONSULTANT BRAHM EILEY

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ The Rogers Centre in Toronto.



▶ Activists, wearing masks depicting U.S. President Barack Obama and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel protest against the world's environmental policies in Mexico City, yesterday.

ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., China takes climate heat

Speaking at the UN Climate Change Conference yesterday in Cancun, Mexican President Felipe Calderon said the conference was stuck in a blame game led by "big players" U.S. and China. In response, the rest of the world should take on the climate crisis more aggressively "with or without them," he said.

N.B. mom launches safety campaign

60 The latest call for changes follows an incident last week when two buses carrying 60 New Brunswick students were stopped in Nova Scotia over tire-tread standards.

A mother from northern New Brunswick has launched her latest effort to improve the safety of student travel in the province, almost three years after her son was killed in a school van crash.

Isabelle Hains says she wants the province to enact the remaining recommendations from a coroner's inquest into the January 2008 crash near Bathurst, N.B., that claimed the life of her son Daniel, six other members of a high school boys' basketball team and the wife of their coach.

The van they were travelling in collided with a transport truck during a snowstorm.

Since then the province has prohibited the use of similar 15-passenger vans for student travel and set tougher rules for winter tires on school vehicles.

Hains wants only yellow school buses or multi-purpose mini-buses that are driven by qualified bus drivers used for student travel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Outpouring of love for Pat Burns

Hockey world, appalled by theft, rallies around late icon's family

The world of hockey is showering heartwarming kindness on Pat Burns' family after a despicable theft following his funeral.

About 30 autographed jerseys from NHL teams as well as numerous personal items were stolen from the late coach's car.

The sweaters were destined for a charity auction to raise money for the Pat Burns Arena now being built in Stanstead, Que.

Yesterday fans, players and managers rallied around. The Montreal Canadiens said they are prepared to help.

Sports collectibles dealers vowed to alert police to anyone trying to hawk the stolen merchandise.

And people are calling police to offer information.

Canadiens spokesperson Donald Beauchamp said the Habs will do all they can to help raise funds for the new arena.

The Burns family knows that "they can count on us," Beauchamp said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beloved coach

- **The man:** Pat Burns, a gruff ex-cop who was known as a tough but fair man, died Nov. 19 after a long battle with cancer.
- **The teams:** Burns was an award-winning coach who served behind the bench for the Canadiens, Maple Leafs, Boston Bruins and New Jersey Devils.

New York. A new look at Da Vinci



Visitors enjoy a multimedia preview in New York yesterday. The show opens tomorrow.

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A treasure ... updated

A new multimedia installation in New York City will offer new ways to see and interpret Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper. The show reproduces the 15th-century painting with a 40-minute sound-and-light show. The "clone" painting is set within a full-scale replica of the dining hall at the convent in Milan that houses the original work.

Ex-coach asks for bail in new sex case

Former junior hockey coach Graham James has applied for bail while he awaits trial on new sex charges in Winnipeg.

The case has been adjourned until tomorrow.

James pleaded guilty in 1997 to hundreds of assaults on two teenage players, including NHLer Sheldon Kennedy, and was sentenced to three and a half years in prison.

He was pardoned a decade later and moved to Mexico, but returned to Canada and turned himself in after police issued an arrest warrant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The James file

- **The new charges:** James, 58, is facing nine charges stemming from alleged encounters with three boys between 1979 and 1994.
- **The accuser:** One of the complainants is former NHL star Theo Fleury.

UN seeks $530M for Somalia

The United Nations is seeking $530 million for aid projects in Somalia next year.

The country's 20 years of strife is a catastrophe that's "as urgent as ever," the agency said yesterday.

The UN said that despite fragile improvement in 2010 because of two good rainy seasons, Somalia still has two million people in crisis, including nearly 1.5 million displaced people.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

20 Somalia hasn't had a fully functioning government in nearly 20 years after warlords overthrew the president.



WikiLeaks taken off U.S. servers

Amazon.com Inc. forced WikiLeaks to stop using the U.S. company's computers to distribute embarrassing State Department communications and other documents, WikiLeaks said yesterday.

The ouster came after U.S. congressional staff questioned Amazon about its relationship with WikiLeaks, said Sen. Joe Lieberman, an independent from Connecticut.

WikiLeaks confirmed the information hours after The Associated Press reported that Amazon's servers had stopped hosting WikiLeaks' site.

The site was unavailable for several hours before it moved back to its previous Swedish host.

WikiLeaks released a trove of sensitive diplomatic documents on Sunday. Just before the release, its website came under an Internet-based attack that made it unavailable for hours at a time.

WikiLeaks released a trove of sensitive diplomatic documents on Sunday. Just before the release, its website came under an Internet-based attack that made it unavailable for hours at a time.

WikiLeaks reacted by moving the website from computers in Sweden to those of Amazon Web Services. Amazon has vast banks of computers that can be rented on a self-service basis to meet surges in traffic.

But that move exposed WikiLeaks to legal and political pressure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 195.47 (13,148.35)	+ 0.92¢ (98.33¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas 1,000 cu ft**
+ $2.64 US ($86.75 US)	$4.269 (+ 8.9¢)
	Gold contracts
	$1,387.30 (+ $2.30)

Tomy. Comeback?



▶ Tomy Co. assistant manager, Hisanao Takahashi, plays with a Tomica Mega Station set.

ITSUO INOUYE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playing with toys

Tomy Co., Japan's No. 2 toy company, is hoping to score a comeback in North America this Christmas with toy trains and cars that boast a 40-year history in Japan, but have previously failed to catch on abroad.

Was the job stimulus a flop?

◗ Survey suggests Economic Plan didn't create many jobs ◗ Harper continued to defend spending

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



The only major attempt to assess the impact of the multibillion-dollar federal stimulus program suggests it's been a flop when it comes to creating jobs.

The Conservatives have long boasted that the Economic Action Plan helped save hundreds of thousands of jobs during the recession.

But the parliamentary budget officer has found that the recipients of the money don't see it that way. In a survey of municipalities that received Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) money, 33 per cent said they saw an increase in employment as a result of the funding. Twenty-one per cent said there were fewer jobs, and 43 per cent said they saw no net impact whatsoever.

The responses are part of a survey the parliamentary budget officer commissioned in the summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Automakers crank up sales in November

- Chevrolet sales up 92% on strong demand for Cruze
- Chrysler's Caravan, Journey, Ram have best month

Canadian consumers pushed up the sales of Chrysler, GM, Nissan and Subaru vehicles in November.

GM Canada said sales of Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac increased almost 60 per cent to 15,912 for last month, compared with the same period a year earlier.

However Toyota Canada, feeling the lingering effects of a string of safety recalls, reported a drop in sales for November. Toyota said it sold 12,169 vehicles, including its Scion and Lexus brand, down 24.5 per cent from 2009.

Year-to-date, GM Canada said it sold 173,192 vehicles, up 26.6 per cent from the same period last year.

40.7

Chrysler Canada sold 165,993 vehicles in the first 11 months — up 40.7 per cent over 2009 when it shut down most production for weeks because of the bankruptcy and bail-out of its U.S. parent.

Chrysler Canada reported its best November since 2002, with the number of vehicles sold up 34 per cent over the same time last year. Chrysler said it sold a total of 15,308 vehicles in Canada last month.

Kia Canada, a relatively small but up-and-coming player in the Canadian market, said its November sales increased 16.1 per cent with sales of 50,843, the first time the company broke the 50,000 mark.

Subaru Canada said it set a new record and a milestone. Strong sales of its Forester and Outback contributed to increasing sales by 15.9 per cent to 2,567 vehicles compared to last year.

Nissan Canada Inc. said it sold 5,786 vehicles, an increase of 8.9 per cent. Altima continued to be the strongest seller, followed by Sentra and Rogue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

India. Autos



▶ Toyota Motor Corporation president Akio Toyoda walks past the company's new car, the Etios Liva, after unveiling it yesterday in Bangalore, India.

AIJAZ RAHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toyota targets entry-level market

Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor launched its entry-level sedan Etios in India yesterday, pricing it between Rs4,96,000 ($10,912 US) and Rs6,86,500 ($15,103 US) to compete with rivals Maruti Suzuki, Ford and Tata Motors. The 1.5-litre car is available in four variants. The Etios Liva hatchback will be launched in April 2011.

NATIONAL BANK

Dividend hike lifts shares

National Bank shares hit an all-time high yesterday after it became the first big Canadian bank to boost its dividend in more than two years, after reporting strong operating results.

The Montreal-based bank's shares hit a peak of $69.73 before losing some ground in later trading. Shares gained $1.60, or 2.36 per cent, to $69.44 on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

National Bank said Tuesday that it would increase its quarterly dividend by six per cent, or four cents. The bank suggested additional increases are possible.

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A TALE OF THE MALE BIOLOGICAL CLOCK

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE



My brother's family recently celebrated the arrival of a baby boy, which, being good Catholics, is not so much a once-in-a-lifetime miracle as an annual rite of passage, like the Super Bowl.

It's still special, but this is their fifth kid in six years, which is the same rate that the NHL has been handing out Stanley Cups. As baby makers go, they're a dynasty, a team of destiny.

Meanwhile, I'm not even making the playoffs. I've always loved kids, but I have it on good authority from reliable sources that, in most cases, a woman is required, for what I assume are legal reasons.

My wife and I separated partially because I changed my mind and decided that I did in fact want children. You can compromise about a lot of things when you're married, but it's difficult to have half a child. ("We'll just have the top half, dear. Less mess.")

And as my (lovely) ex once said, "This is serious. It's not like we differ on strawberries."

So we parted ways. I moved to a bachelor pad, she moved to the Middle East, which I suspect says something about how well I handled everything. (In my defence, she did not move to Mount Merapi, the Mariana Trench, or the moon.)

"I've got a lot of work to do, because you can't just suddenly christen yourself a parent at random if your name isn't Angelina Jolie ..."

And now I work toward the goal of a child by 40.

I've got a lot of work to do, because you can't just suddenly christen yourself a parent at random if your name isn't Angelina Jolie, who adopts children with the same frequency the Knights of Columbus adopt highways.

I'd prefer to have a child as part of a family, which means I'll have to get over this crippling post-divorce fear of commitment. Right now I date, get comfortable, then I hear the word "relationship," and I run away so fast I leave a Road Runner dust trail behind me and stare back from a distance, big cartoon eyes blinking in the darkness. I know it's safe to come back down when I hear the entire female species simultaneously breathe the word, "Men."

But I have a biological clock of sorts. I don't like the idea of being so much older than my child that I can't teach, relate, or play. I don't want to be in the position where we're both wearing diapers.

So, I'll start thinking about a child just as soon as I stop acting like one. And if things don't work out, I'll ask Angelina if she has any extra.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Basic diet for basic training

Worth mentioning

Healthy fighters

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



New soldiers expecting army drill sergeants to bust their chops over poor posture or a wayward gaze may instead want to avoid a more modern military transgression: Relying on fast food for sustenance.

The U.S. army plans to get new recruits into better shape with a revamped approach to health, fitness and diet at basic training.

The most visible changes will be seen in mess halls, where milk and juice dispensers will replace soda fountains, and whole grains will be substituted for white bread and pasta.

Army leaders unveiled the new approach yesterday at Missouri's Fort Leonard Wood. It's the first substantial change to basic fitness training in the army in 30 years.

"We are seeing many soldiers entering our profession who need phased conditioning methods and improved nutritional habits," said Lt.-Gen. Mark Hertling, of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

The "soldier athlete" initiative is designed to prepare new recruits with training methods similar to those offered to elite athletes preparing for competition.

Drill sergeants will include one-hour sessions on performance nutrition in addition to their traditional responsibilities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do you believe in alien life forms?

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Metro Minute at tree lighting

If you need to get into the holiday spirit, a trip to Sackville could be in order tonight.

The annual Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting event is taking place from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Acadia Hall inside the Sackville Library.

The event will begin with songs and stories inside the library, followed by the annual tree lighting outside.

The event is free to the public and will include live local music, free hot chocolate and a visit from Santa Claus.

There will be no on-site parking, but parking is available at Downsview Mall. For more information, call 865-3744.

METRO

CONTRIBUTED



▶ The annual Sackville Christmas Tree Lighting event will be held tonight from 6 to 7:30 at Acadia Hall.

2 scene

News in brief



Even though Lea Michele stars on a television show, her Glee role has had such an impact on music this year that Billboard is honouring her with a "triple threat" award.

She'll get the award at Billboard's annual "Women in Music" luncheon in New York City tonight honouring Fergie of the Black Eyed Peas.

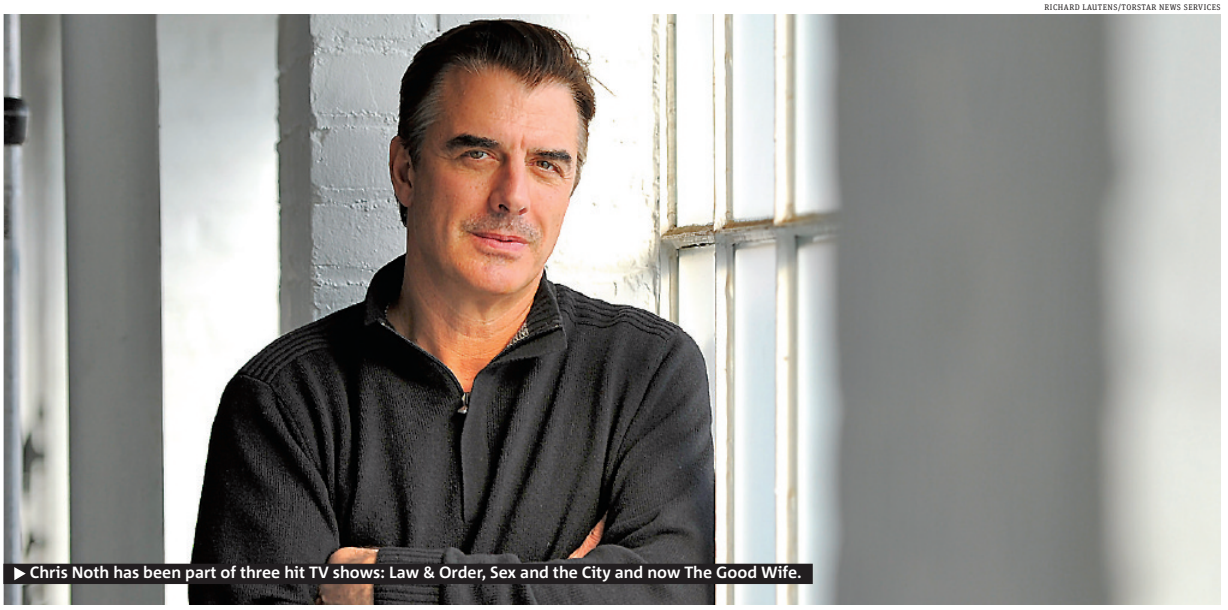
The 24-year-old Michele says "it's wonderful recognition." But she has no plans to put out a record like her co-star Matthew Morrison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CBS' The Early Show undergoes complete talent overhaul

Veteran TV actor still can't wrap his brain around celebrity obsessions
Blames tabloids for dumbing down America and letting the Tea Party dominate the political discourse
And how Sex and the City ruined New York for him

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES



▶ Chris Noth has been part of three hit TV shows: Law & Order, Sex and the City and now The Good Wife.

Good Wife's Noth gets political



NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Though still a New Yorker at heart, Chris Noth admits it's been easier and easier to spend his time on the west coast.

"New York's changed a lot, but I still keep my place there. I'd never give that up" he says. "I mean, let's face it, it's become a bank and a drug store. Sex and the City ruined it."

Noth is in L.A. now to promote his latest TV gig, The Good Wife, now in its second season. But that's not what he really feels like discussing. "I'm sort of the recurring guest artist on it," he says. "It's not really my show."

So what does he want to talk about? Well, how about the Tea Party? "It's a terrible time in America. It's all partisanship," he says. "A really smart politician doesn't really have a chance, so we get all these yokels like the Tea Party."

Playing a politician brought down by a sex and corruption scandal has given him some new insight.

"A really good politician doesn't have much of a chance, unless he's a f–ing saint. And nobody's a saint," Noth says. "John F. Kennedy would never be president today."

And he's got a few theories as to how things got to be the way they are. Here's a hint: tabloids aren't helping.

"It's all so mundane now. You know, what shoes they're wearing. 'Look, stars pick up dog poop!' Whatever these magazines are," he says. "They've so dumbed our country. … And I think what people are doing is missing out on their lives by tuning into this fake celebrity s–."

So what about that other series he did, the one that ruined New York? Noth admits it's still the thing he's recognized for the most.

"I've never understood that phenomenon," he says. "I did a show that obviously had some kind of intense impact about this character that I played, that relationship with Carrie. But it's a fantasy. Come on, look at the apartment she had."

Good and bad not easy to pin down: Noth

While Chris Noth's character in The Good Wife is a confirmed philanderer, he doesn't think it necessarily makes him "The Bad Husband" — or at least shouldn't bear sole responsibility for his marital difficulties.

"Whatever reasons that he strayed also are in that union, that marriage," Noth says. "It's his fault for doing that, maybe, but how did it start? We don't know, we haven't explored that.

"What's missing in that to make him go do that? That hasn't been explored, and it may or may not be. But I wouldn't put much emphasis on the words good or bad."

NED EHRBAR

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BEP do what they do best: make hits

Black Eyed Peas
Album: The Beginning
Label: Universal
●●●

There's not much left to say about the Black Eyed Peas. If you find their radio-courting singles obnoxious, their latest won't change that. If you like their insanely infectious club-friendly hip-hop you'll love this.

Their first track is enough to make them a bazillion dollars — they take the chorus of Time of My Life and turn it into an epic rave number.

As usual, it's easy to hate this disc, but if you can give yourself over to the fact that BEP have perfected the pop-rap-meets-dance genre then you can start appreciating what they do. The bottom line is that they create huge songs that will get massive radio play. And they do it better than most. You can't get much poppier than Love You Long Time's repetitive chorus, while XOXOXO's deep drums and electro riffs is so simple you'll be humming the words and the background music.

As usual, the most grating parts come from Fergie — her forte is repeating choruses over and over again until you feel like throwing your computer out the window. There's also too much auto-tune on the record, but when you're listening to this drunk at the bar, or blasting it out your window it won't matter. You've got to give them credit, for better or worse, their formula works. **Outstanding track:** XOXOXO

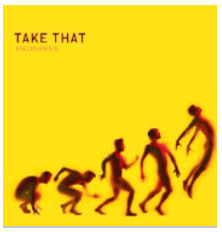
BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI



Fefe Dobson
Album: Joy
Label: Universal
●●●

On her long-awaited second album, the Scarborough songstress starts out sounding like so many other over-produced pop divas we've heard over the last few years. The opening track Ghost has been getting plenty of air time, as will the next two tracks, Thanks for Nothing and Stuttering. This script has been growing stale for years. Somewhere inside this record, lies a punk rocker struggling to rip out of the stretch wrap. **Outstanding track:** Watch Me Move

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM



Take That
Album: Progress
Label: Polydor
●●●●

Justin Timberlake take notice: if your solo career dies, you can always go back to your old band. That's what happened with Robbie Williams, member of popular British group Take That. That's news in itself, but the record also marks a departure for the band – gone are the ballads that made them famous. Progress sees them banging out epic rockers on SOS, dabbling in arena rock on Kidz and Beatles-like pop on Pretty Things. **Outstanding track:** SOS

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

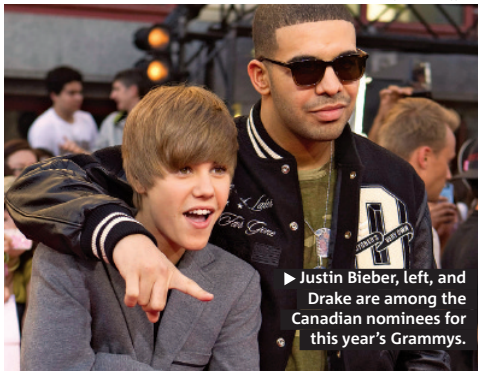


Bryan Adams
Album: Bare Bones
Label: Decca
●●●

Another stripped-down, hits-based live solo effort, Bare Bones is incredibly similar to Adams' 1997 album MTV Unplugged. Still, one can't deny how there's something calm and captivating about the gravelly-voiced minstrel when accompanied by only an acoustic guitar and piano. While 20 tracks of plinky twang and simpleton lyrics wear thin after over an hour, there is an air of thrill when Neil Young-ish harmonica-bolstered I'm Ready and the formative Tom Waits inspiration of Right Place are belted out. **Outstanding track:** I'm Ready

KEITH CARMEN

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



▶ Justin Bieber, left, and Drake are among the Canadian nominees for this year's Grammys.

Bieber, Drake up for Grammys

Canadian teen-pop sensation Justin Bieber has his first Grammy nomination, while compatriots Arcade Fire and Drake also nabbed high-profile nods for the annual music awards bash yesterday.

Bieber and Drake will face off for best new artist, competing with Florence and the Machine, Mumford and Sons and Esperanza Spalding.

Arcade Fire, meanwhile, is up for album of the year — arguably the show's top prize. The Montreal rockers will compete with four of the biggest acts of the past year: Eminem, Lady Gaga, Lady Antebellum and Katy Perry.

The announcement was made as part of the Grammys' hourlong live nominations special on CBS in Los Angeles.

Bieber appeared via satellite from London to accept the honour.

"Wow, it feels amazing, I can't believe I'm in this position," said the teen.

Drake, meanwhile, had been nominated for two Grammys at the show earlier this year, months prior to the release of his platinum-selling debut, Thank Me Later.

But the 24-year-old was still eligible for best new artist thanks to a change that allowed previous nominees to be up for the award as long as they didn't win. THE CANADIAN PRESS





Chrisette Michele lets freedom reign

New album includes rap in title song Talks about negotiating ups and downs of music business

There's more confidence in Chrisette Michele's voice these days, but it has nothing to do with her vocal ability.

The Grammy-winning singer, who debuted with the jazz-soul CD I Am in 2007, is speaking her mind on her third disc, Let Freedom Reign, out this week.

"I used to be so afraid to say what I really think," Michele said. "This album is about me just saying what I need to say, feeling what I need to feel, dressing how I want to dress and emoting how I want to."

And to get some points across effectively, Michele is rapping lyrics instead of singing them.

"When you sing, things are pretty (and) I can't express the things that I'm expressing in this song Let Freedom Reign by singing it," she said.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, the 27-year-old talked about her new album and explained why she might not be hitting the road to promote Let Freedom Reign.



▶ Chrisette Michele's third album, Let Freedom Reign, is out this week.

Are you nervous about people hearing you rap?

I'm not nervous, I'm curious. I'm usually petrified. ... But this time, I'm not so nervous about people's opinions as I am about if the record label is going to be proud of the numbers. That whole numbers thing makes me uncomfortable. I hate it.

What do you do to ease things?

If I was smart, I would party. I would party all week. I'd get drunk, you know. I'd smoke something. If I were smart, boy! 'Cause I get invited to a lot of parties, but instead I just watch cartoons, hang out with friends, go to the movies, do lots of press. Lots! Lots of press. But I should go get drunk.

Would you say the music industry is cold?

People are mean and hateful, angry — haters everywhere, stupid blogs. People want to type ugly things that if somebody said to them they would lose their mind, but I got to go through it and sing the next day? ... That hurts! So yeah, it's very cold. But you try to separate yourself from as much of the ugliness as you can. It's hard, but I try.

You toured a lot last year with the likes of Maxwell, Anthony Hamilton and Musiq.

I am tour. Hi, my name's tour. It is what I do, 250 days of the year. It's a lot of time. I love it though.

Are you planning to hit the road again?

The truth is an artist like me who doesn't get the type of promotion that we see more commercial artists receive, and especially in this climate of the music business, you have to be creative about how you promote yourself. Now, the people who make money off of my albums aren't necessarily worried about my first-week sales, they're worried about the sales that I receive during my touring schedule. But this time, I'm going to trick some folks up and I'm not going to go on tour until I feel like it.

So are you really saying you won't go on tour?

It's payback. I'm going to go out on tour, though. I'm going to go out on tour when I feel like going on tour. I'm not going on tour to promote the album. I'm going on tour because I love my fans. ... So when I go out on tour it's for them, not for album sales.

Do you have any dream collaborations?

I think it would be cool to work with Janelle Monae and B.o.B — if I could just get their phone numbers. Next time I see them at an awards show, I'm just going to be (like), "Yo, what's your number?"

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


▶ El DeBarge is releasing his first album in 16 years.

Comeback CD is emotional

After battling with drug addiction and jail, El DeBarge finds healing in making his new album

Recording a new album for El DeBarge was an emotional experience.

"It's been such a long time since I've done it," DeBarge said Tuesday. "I cried a little bit because I was so joyful and happy about it."

It's been 16 years since DeBarge has released new music. He's returned with Second Chance, his fifth solo album, which is out this week.

The 49-year-old said the tears were a result of him rediscovering his own musical abilities.

"I really wanted to know that I could still do it again and when I heard my voice I was just like, 'Wow,"' he said.

DeBarge made his comeback at this year's BET Awards in June. He's most famous as the leader of the R&B clan, DeBarge, which featured his family members.

The performer, who was jailed for two years following a 2008 drug possession arrest, said he knew for a while that he wanted to release new music, but waited until he was clean.

"I just needed to get my willpower back and get off those drugs and get my strength back," DeBarge said, who had been addicted to drugs for 22 years.

DeBarge wrapped up a national tour with Mary J. Blige in October and said he's planning his own tour for 2011. He also said he's getting into acting.

"I'm playing myself in a movie that's coming out in 2011 called Jumping the Broom and I'm singing," he said. "So I think it will spring off from there maybe to some acting."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trumped in court

A Florida judge has rejected a lawsuit by Donald Trump that claims noise from a nearby airport is hurting his oceanfront Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach.

Trump's attorney told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel he plans to refile the case against Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach International Airport after the judge's decision Tuesday.

The lawsuit filed in July was the latest legal action by Trump in a decades-old disagreement over noise control at the airport, which is near his club. Mar-a-Lago is a 126-room private club in a historic mansion.

Trump's suit argued that noise, vibrations and emissions from passing aircraft were damaging the property value of his estate. The judge left an option for Trump's side to refile an amended lawsuit within 20 days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ Donald Trump

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Jacko's dad files lawsuit against pop star's doctor

Dr. Conrad Murray also facing manslaughter charge

Michael Jackson's father refiled a wrongful death lawsuit Tuesday against the doctor charged in his son's death, and added as a defendant a Las Vegas pharmacy that records show sold the physician a powerful anesthetic blamed for his death.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages against Dr. Conrad Murray, who has pleaded not guilty in the separate criminal case to involuntary manslaughter in the singer's June 2009 death.

Joe Jackson initially filed his case against Murray in federal court on the first anniversary of his son's death. A judge, however, refused to hear the case and said it should be handled in state court, where it was refiled Tuesday.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Michael Jackson

"This has been a long process and the facts of Michael's death have been way too slow in emerging," said Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman. "There is still much to discover and we're going to find it out."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uma's stalker facing more charges

A former psychiatric patient who was convicted in 2008 of stalking Uma Thurman tried to call her again, defying a court order to leave her alone after years of unwanted and weird advances, officials said Tuesday.

Jack Jordan was awaiting extradition to New York after he was arrested Nov. 23 in a Washington, D.C., suburb on charges of violating his restraining order by calling the actress's office, according to police and the Brooklyn district attorney's office.

Jordan, was sentenced in 2008 to three years' probation and told not to try to contact the Oscar-nominated actress for five years. He'd been convicted of stalking and harassing the actress from 2005 to 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Uma Thurman



Where the party at?


KENYA HUNT
STYLE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Spiked eggnog, mounds of gift cards, boozy co-workers and, of course, mistletoe.

What's not to love about this season and holiday festivities?

The hassle of finding something to wear, of course!

Save yourself the grief by buying one great piece, and re-working it throughout the month with accessories that set the tone of your look.



Topshop waterfall dress
$135, topshop.com

The swanky nightclub holiday bash:
Reiss peep toe pump
$290, reiss.com

The charity black-tie gala:
Beatrix Ong glitter pumps
$398, beatrixong.com

The girls' night out gift-exchange:
Lanvin for H&M clutch
$39, hm.com



Lanvin for H&M dress
$199, hm.com

The boyfriend's annual holiday house party:
Converse All Star Chuck Taylor hi-tops,
$43, converse.com

The outdoor tree lighting ceremony:
Lipsy faux fur jacket
$136, asos.com

The corporate cocktail soiree:
Club Monaco feather clutch
$148, shopbop.com



Issa beaded wool dress
$750, netaporter.com

The office Christmas party:
Acne patchwork boots
$900, acnestudios.com

Grandma's tree-trimming gathering:
Zara cable-knit sweater with belt
$32, zara.com

The blind date to see The Nutcracker:
J.Crew platform heels
$238, jcrew.com

3 life

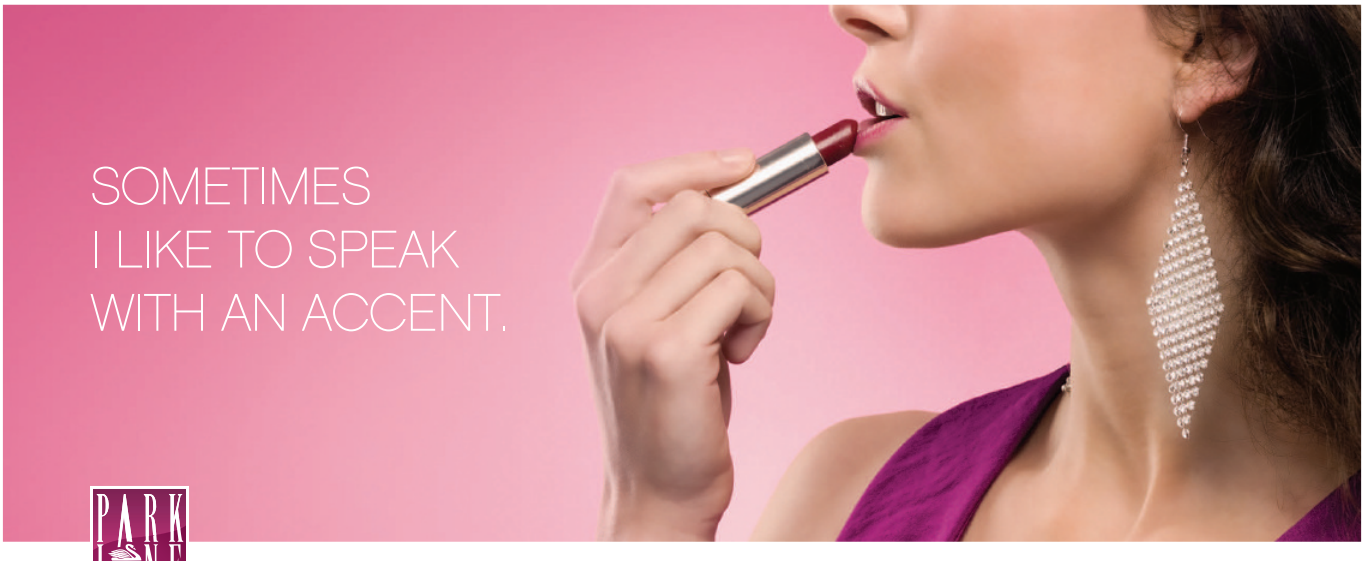
Shirts



Looking for that perfect shirt? Guys who just can't seem to find a style that works for them can design their own shirt at shirtsmyway. com. The website allows you to select everything from collar-and-cuff style to the fit. You can also select the colour and the shirt is tailored to your specific measurements.
METRO



'Project Runway' designer Mondo Guerra raising AIDS awareness with new T-shirts



Helping your skin brave winter elements



THE KIT

You can prepare your skin for just about everything nature throws at it, with just a couple of tweaks to your regularly scheduled beauty programming.

NIGHTY NIGHT

"Keep night cream on the bedside table so you can leisurely massage it into skin, slide into sleep and wake up with a radiant complexion," says U.K.-based Olay celebrity facialist Anastasia Achilleos.

Among The Kit editors' many favourites is Bobbi Brown Hydrating Intense Night Cream. $65, bobbibrown.com

MASKER-AID

A fix for slack, dry, tired faces, Olay's Professional Pro-X Intensive Treatment Mask is infused with 35 ml of serum. One 10-minute mask equals brighter, firmer, dewier skin for your night out. The 30-day treatment, which includes five masks and a month's supply of Olay Professional Pro-X Skin Tightening Serum, sets you up for much longer. $60, olay.ca



WIND SHIELD

Ski trips, tobogganing, snowball fights — a layer of moisturizing balm coats sensitive skin to protect it from the sting of windburn. Naturally Upper Canada Body Butter Balm stick contains shea and cocoa seed butters, as well as coconut and olive fruit oils. $15, uppercanadasoap.com

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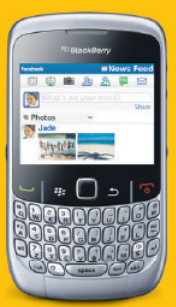
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'Tis the season to sniff

You don't have to buy a tree to enjoy a season full of scents **Tips to trick the noses of your holiday guests**



KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

With Christmas just a few weeks away, its almost time to put up the tree.

Mine is a beautiful eight foot tall, pre-lit artificial tree that fools everyone who comes in. The branches are full, there are real pine cones wired on and the 800 sot white lights looks like stars in the sky. I think the biggest trickery of my tree is the scent; I love to have the sweet, refreshing smell of evergreens and freshly cut wood throughout the main floor of the house as guests arrive. Here are a variety of fabulous ways to fragrance your home that'll fool even the most experienced tree farmer:

Fresh wreath

There's nothing more inviting than a fresh wreath on the door. If kept fresh, the fragrance will welcome your guests for week.

TIP: Use wreaths in more places than outside; displayed inside on windows or over mirrors is a great way bring the lush scent inside.

Best candle

With a designer mix of pine and patchouli, Diptyque's PIN candle ($85) will fragrance an entire room with the sexy smell of the Christmas tree Even the packaging evokes luxury. .

TIP: When you burn near the bottom of the jar, use a non-scented votive candle. The heat will warm up the remaining wax and spread the scent into the air. holtrenfrew.com.



▶ Dyptique's PIN candle

Best pot pourri

The Windsor Forest Fragranced Botanicals from Crabtree and Evelyn ($45) are as beautiful to look at as they are to smell. Birch logs, pine cones, twigs, dried berries help bring the forest to your home.

TIP: Place 2-3 birch logs in a large elegant punchbowl and sprinkle the fragranced botanicals on top for a larger than life centerpiece on the dining or coffee table. crabtree-evelyn.ca



▶ Crabtree and Evelyn Fragranced Botanicals

Best room spray

Imagine if you could gather up all the used Christmas trees and extract their natural scents of spruce, pine and woodsy oils then you would have Mythical Matters' Smells Like The Christmas Tree room spray ($15). An all natural room refresher with no harmful additives or chemicals. It's the truest of all tree smells this nose has ever experienced.

TIP: Keep this one near the front door and spritz just before guests enter; they will be amazed at the realistic scent. mythicalmatters.com

Safest scent

It's a porcelain container that allows a small lightbulb to warm up and melt a tray of scented wax. Scentsy's Christmas Tree scented bricks are a safe way to spread the smell of the tree without the risks of an open flame, smoke or soot. Simply plug in the Tannenbaum warming base ($30) and allow a 25 watt light bulb to melt the scented wax (from $6) to add a beautiful fir and cedar scent to a room.

TIP: I'd use a lamp timer to schedule this fragrance to come on and off; a safe and great way to guarantee the house will smell great during peak entertaining times .scentsy.ca



▶ Mythical Matters' Smells Like The Christmas Tree room spray

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LUNCH RUSH

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We sample Ray Bear's inviting new restaurant at a window table with a harbour view. The service is exemplary. The lunch menu is substantial, and includes salads, soups, burgers, sandwiches, pasta, pizza, steak, ribs and seafood.

My pal tries the Mix Burger, a large, perfectly-broiled burger topped with jalapeno Havarti cheese, local double-smoked bacon from Outlton's, guacamole, red pepper, spicy mayo, tomato and lettuce.

It's tastier than your typical burger, served on a fresh bun and accompanied by a huge pile of home-cut fries.

My Valley Pulled Pork Sandwich is sumptuous. The pork is tender and cooked in a flavourful barbecue sauce that is neither too sweet nor too sharp.

For dessert, the Gingerbread French Toast with caramelized pineapple and vanilla ice cream — oh, my. Like the restaurant itself, it's a real treat.

- **Mix Fresh Kitchen**
- **5171 Salter St.**
- **429-9571**
- **Hours: Mon to Fri 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.**
- **Rating: ****
- **Price range: $$$**
- **Licensed: Yes**

Smoked Salmon Spread



Ingredients:

- Half of a 750-g bag frozen potato chunks (about 750 ml/3 cups)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 250 ml (1 cup) vegetable or chicken broth
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sour cream
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) finely chopped smoked salmon
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) finely chopped red onion
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) chopped fresh dill
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) grated lemon rind
- Flatbread or lightly toasted bread rounds

Smoked Salmon Spread Preparation:

This appetizer is a twist on the classic Potato Skordalia. The rich flavours of smoked salmon and dill complement the creamy potato base.

1. In a large saucepan, bring frozen potatoes, garlic and stock to a simmer. Cover and cook on medium-low heat for about 10 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Let stand for 5 minutes.
2. Mash potatoes evenly and stir in sour cream, smoked salmon, onion, dill and lemon rind until smooth. Spread on flatbread or rounds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Simple meal plans

Sandi Richard is back again with her ongoing mission to help families get meals on the table without stress and to create more balance in their lives.

After penning five books on meal planning, her latest is Eating Forward ($26.99, paperback).

"I felt this was an important book to write because it addresses 12 years of frightening observations of how our society is coping (or not) with dinner," says the Calgary mother of seven adult children.

Richard notes that the main reason dinners are such a hassle to prepare is that almost everyone has a time issue, although "convenience is in our face."

"I believe that many parents make the decision to buy fast food, whether from a deli or a take-out restaurant, based on love, not neglect."

Using a database created over the years of publishing meal-planning books from information given by readers, Richard and her husband Ron, co-partners in their company Cooking for the Rushed, conducted a survey.

"We connected with real families because we wanted to know what they eat in the work week," she explains.

The book features six time-tested meal plans with real families.

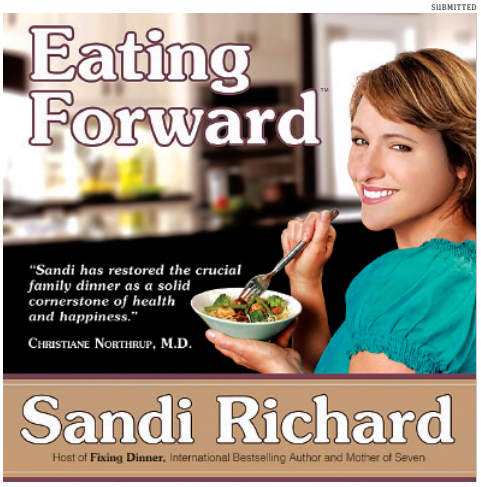
The plans take 20 minutes or less to prepare. There are Eat Sheets for each week of dinners, so shoppers have a list of what groceries they need to buy.

Richard has included sections on quick preparation tips and diabetic food exchanges as well as utensils and appliances home cooks require.

This fall, Richard has a new show, Let's Do Lunch. on Food Network Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

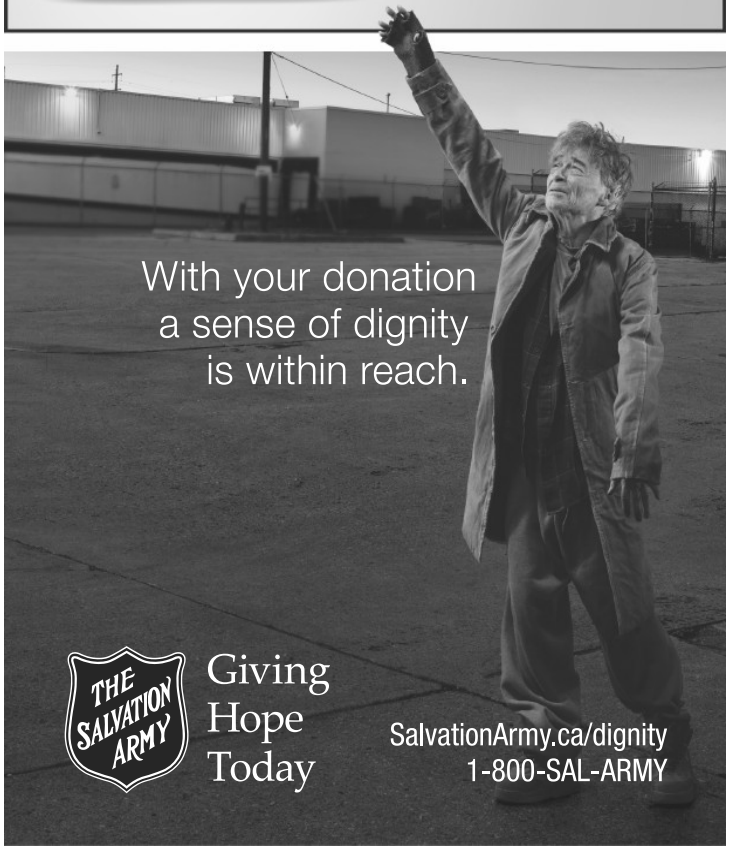
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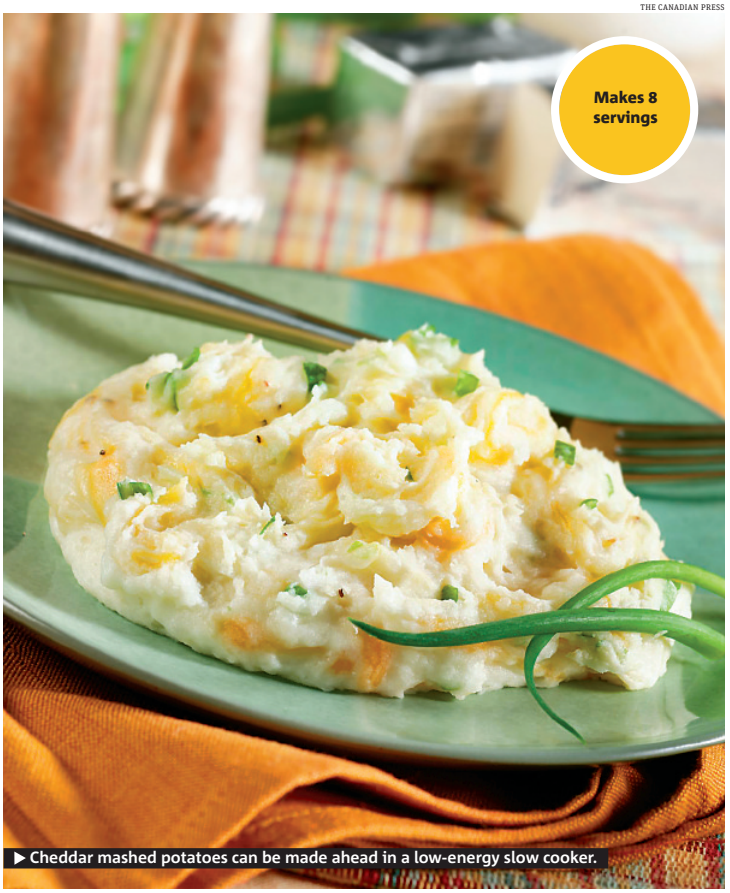


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THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Cheddar mashed potatoes can be made ahead in a low-energy slow cooker.

Make-ahead potatoes

Mashed potatoes are an excellent side dish to make ahead during the busy holiday period. Using a slow cooker frees the oven up for other dishes.

And as an added bonus, the slow cooker conserves energy so it's an economical move.

Cheddar Mashed Potatoes
Preparation:

1. Combine potatoes and water in 4.5-l slow cooker. Dot with butter. Cover; cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours until potatoes are tender.
2. Remove potatoes to a large mixing bowl. Using an electric mixer at medium speed, whip potatoes until well blended. Add milk, salt and pepper; whip until smooth.
3. Stir in green onions and cheese; cover. Let stand for 15 minutes to allow flavours to blend and cheese to melt.

Ingredients:

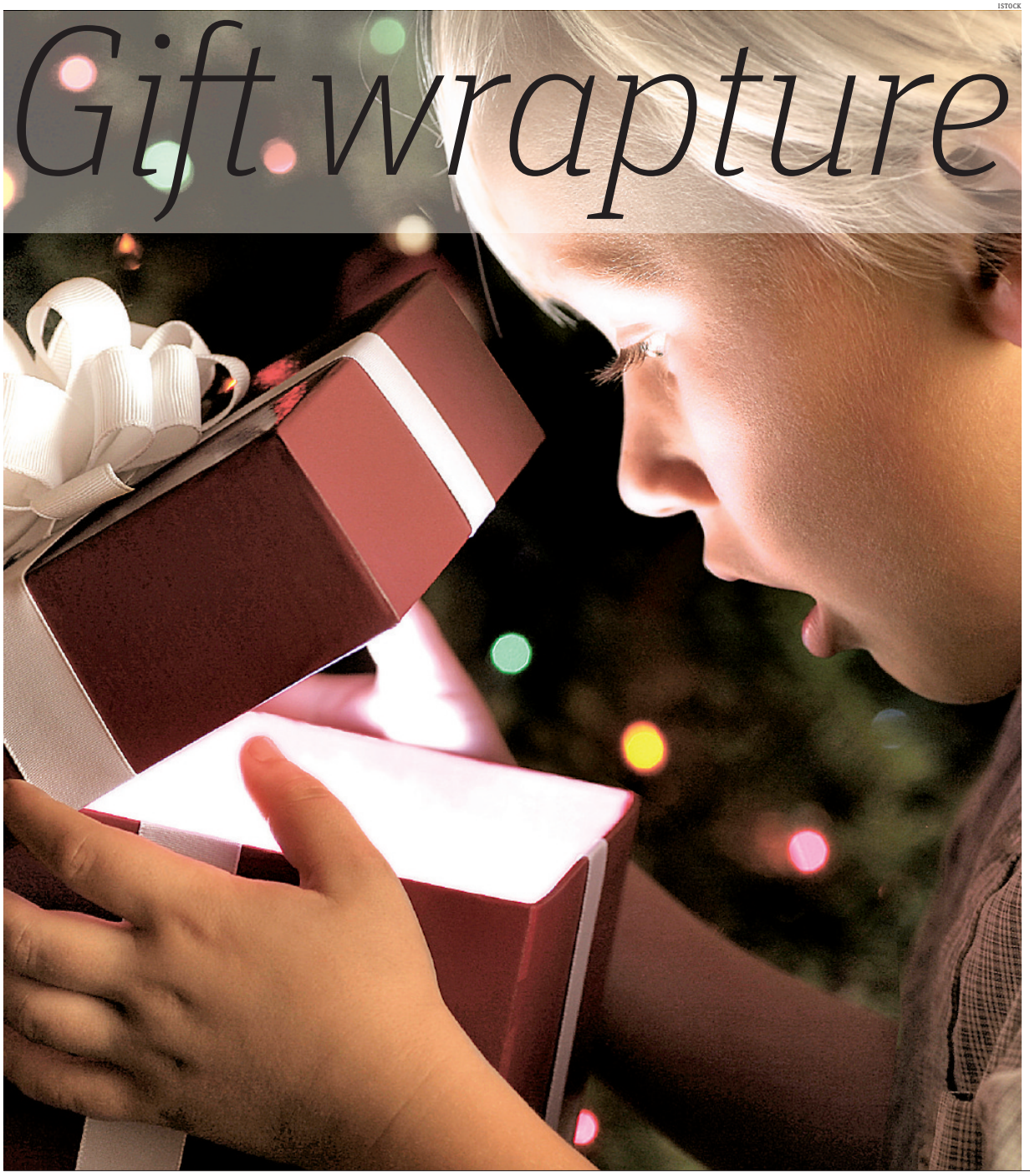
- 1 kg (2 lb) Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and diced
- 250 ml (1 cup) water
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) butter, cut into small pieces
- 125 to 175 ml (1/2 to 3/4 cup) milk
- 6 ml (1 1/4 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) black pepper
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped green onions
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) shredded cheddar cheese



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Gift wrapture

ISTOCK





Lovely gifts for lovely homes

For you and yours, ideas to make your home cosy and fashionable
{page 27}

Teen spirit



These gifts are sure to please teens, and also mom and dad
{page 29}

24 days until Dec. 25

Catch our next gift guide on Dec. 9



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MAKE EYES BRIGHT



1



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1 ALPHIE ROBOT $49.99

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2 PULL ALONG SHIP $34.99

Little swashbucklers will love having a pirate ship of their very own by claiming the Pull Along Musical Pirate Ship as their flagship vessel. **Available at major toy retailers.**

3 THOMAS & FRIENDS $54.99

Based on the movie Thomas & Friends: Misty Island Rescue, Thomas and James must travel through the mysterious mountains of Misty Island. Build and rebuild to new heights as they race from sea level to high up in the mountains. **Available at major toy retailers.**

4 DOLL GIFT SET $139.99

This seven-doll gift set includes some Disney princess favourites including Princess Tiana from the Princess and the Frog. **Available at major toy retailers.**

5 MILLENNIUM FALCON $59.99

For the first time ever, the Millennium Falcon — the most beloved and iconic Star Wars ship of all time — is available as an indoor flying remote control vehicle. **Available at major toy retailers.**

6 GLOWCRAZY DOODLER $29.99

With the GlowCrazy Distance Doodler, kids can create a stencil scene or enjoy target practice with light from up to four metres away. **Available at major toy retailers.**

Home is where the gifts are

These items are sure to please for the holidays



Keurig Single Serve Coffee Maker, $119.99 This single serve brewer allows you to make fresh coffee, tea or hot chocolate and offers a wide variety of brands and flavours. Select your preferred cup size from eight and 10 ounces. Available at Future Shop.



Trudeau Twin Spoons, $14.99 Serve your appetizers in style with the Novella Appetizer Spoons by Trudeau. This set of six spoons is ideal for individual appetizers and bouchees. Made of fine white ceramic, spoons are long lasting and dishwasher safe. The versatile, contemporary look is perfect for most occasions. Available at trudeau.ca.



Made in Portugal, the **Whole Home Portuguese Flannel Sheet Set, $159.99 (Queen)** is made for winter warmth. Comes in flat sheets, fitted sheets and standard size pillow cases. Sizes double to king. Exclusive to Sears.



The FlavourWave Turbo Oven, $139.99, cooks meats from fresh or frozen up to three times faster than traditional methods using halogen heat and convection cooking. Available at Canadian Tire.



Savour a cup of coffee in these classic gold ceramic coffee cups. The **Bicchierini Gold Espresso collection, $39.99,** includes a six-piece cup set with a translucent sleeve. Exclusive to Sears.

Make her feel special



Calvin Klein Beauty, Purse charm, $50 It's pretty risky to endow your fragrance with such a loaded word, but CK has pulled it off, well, ... beautifully. Sweet, light, and just a little spicy. The Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart and Murale.



Tiffany & Co. Filigree Heart pendant, $240 Sure, she loves you for who you are, but if you want to send her love into warp speed put one of these babies around her neck. You're welcome. tiffany.ca



Sephora Collection travel brush set, $34 You only see the finished product, which requires time, effort, and good tools. This is her toolbox. sephora.com



Faux shearling trapper hat, $29.99, with matching gloves, $19.99 Unless you live north of Inuktitut, there is no reason you should be wearing fur. Faux fur, on the other hand, is fabulous. At all Sears locations.

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Smart holiday decorating

RAF BRUSILOW
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

HGTV host Scott McGillivray has seen the best and worst of holiday decorating and now he wants to make sure your own Christmas decorations go off without a hitch.

The host of Income Property and new series Holiday Battle on the Block offers his Top 3 tips for decorating safely and with flair this holiday season.

Start early when the weather is still mild

By the time many people start putting up their decorations in mid-December the biting cold, falling snow and shorter days make outdoor work a lot harder than it needs to be. Ropes get stiff in the cold and snow or ice on your roof can make decorating challenging and potentially dangerous.

"Put up your decorations when you have some nice weather. November is a great time to do it because it will be much easier than if you wait too long," McGillivray said.

Use a timer

Wiring all your lights and electrical doodads into a timer is a great idea for two reasons: It'll make it easier to turn your whole display on and off and you'll be able to set it to turn on and off automatically. McGillivray recommends a 5:30 p.m. setting for going on and midnight for going off.

"Get everything wired into a timer. Have a plan so all your lights are tied into a single timer so they can turn on and off at present times," he said.

Prepare for heights

Falls are some of the most common — and most dangerous — accidents that can happen when decorating outdoors. Make sure your ladder is safe, have a spotter and buy or rent a harness if you're going to go on your roof.

"People aren't typically used to being way up on a ladder or up on their roofs. You have to be harnessed, the pitch on most roofs is not safe to go on without a harness. Also remember everything you put on your roof needs to be secure," McGillivray said.



▶ Wrap Christmas lights properly, or don't do it at all, says HGTV host Scott McGillivray.

Watch it

Holiday Battle on the Block follows several families competing to decorate their homes with the best Christmas decorations on their street. The show, hosted by Income Property host Scott McGillivray, debuted on November 27 on HGTV and runs for four weeks. Check local listings for showtime.

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Sun 12-5

DOOR CRASHERS

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Bath Towel Set – 6 pk
2 Bath Towels
2 Hand Towels
2 Wash Cloths
Compare at $29.99
TODAY ONLY $9.99



Friday, Dec 3
Sunbeam Mighty Cell Batteries
AA & AAA / 24 pc Value Pack
Compare at $6.99
TODAY ONLY $1.99



Saturday, Dec 4
Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock
Compare at $99.99
TODAY ONLY $20



Sunday, Dec 5
Press N Chop Food Chopper
Compare at $19.99
TODAY ONLY $3.88



Gift Ideas

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Includes Wood Block
Never Needs Sharpening
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Your Price $2.88

M&M Cello Bags (357g)
Asst Holiday Mix
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Your Price $2.00

HALLS Cough Drops (200 ct)
Advanced Vapor Action
Cherry Flavor / Value Pack
Compare at $9.99 & Up
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Ferrero Milk Chocolate
Orange Ball & Toffee Crunch
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1

Kiehl's Cross-Terrain Collection, $15-$32
Something from this line of body wash, SPF 50 body moisturizer, anti-perspirant and foot cream should get him through a high-school day. **Kiehl's boutiques**



2

Benefit Glowa Make-up Kit, $40
A makeup lesson in a box, this is everything she needs for radiant, natural-looking beauty, plus easy-follow instructions. **Shoppers Drug Mart, Sephora, Murale, Holt Renfrew**



3

Joe Fresh Mini Fresh Glass Set, $10 (top)
This sweet set of wee, sheer, minty gloss shades, available in Warm, Everyday and Cool, is a guaranteed hit with pretty much any female. **joefresh.ca**



4

Bread & Butter Skincare Winter Shaving Kit, $35 (bottom)
Get him started with a good skincare regimen. Canadian brand Bread & Butter is all about good-for-skin ingredients without unnecessary chemicals. **breadandbutterskincare.com**



5

Quo Men's Manicure Kit, $20
Chances are he'll never buy one himself, but a manicure set that includes toe and fingernail clippers, nail file, tweezers and scissors will be his go-to for the finer points of grooming. **Shoppers Drug Mart**



6

The Body Shop Sparkler, $18
This softly scented face-and-body sparkle-powder atomizer gives skin a bewitching sheen more fairy dust than disco glitter. Spray onto a powder puff then press. **The Body Shop**







This computes for techies

1 APPLE $1,049

Apple's new laptop, the MacBook Air, is lighter (2.3 pounds) and smaller (11 inches) than ever. Its solid state flash storage is up to twice as fast as hard drive storage and cuts down on crashes. **Apple, Future Shop, Best Buy.**

2 DELL PRICE VARIES PER PACKAGE

The Dell Streak mixes the tablet and the smartphone with its handheld entertainment, social connection and navigation device operating on the multitasking Google Android OS. **Rogers.**

3 SONY $1,549.99

Sony's VAIO J Series all-in-one desktop PC lets users point and tap on a 21.5-inch high-definition monitor. Can operate with mouse and keyboard. **Sonystyle.ca.**

4 TOSHIBA $1,899

Toshiba's Satellite A660-0T4 aims at gamers with a 15.6-inch HD LED widescreen display equipped with NVIDIA 3D Vision technology. **Toshiba.ca, Best Buy.**

5 HP $599.99

The fashionista's favourite HP Mini 210 Vivienne Tam Edition Netbook comes with an Intel Atom processor, 2GB system memory and 250GB hard drive. **Best Buy.**

6 PANASONIC $3,491.99

The durable and reliable Panasonic Toughbook weighs three pounds and offers 11 hours of battery life. It's ideal for laptop users regularly on the move. **Panasonic.ca, Best Buy.**



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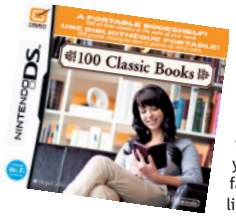
Ideas for entertainment lovers on your gift list



Cannon Powershot SD4500
$399.99
The Powershot SD4500 lets you record videos at a blisteringly high rate of 240 fps so you can watch them in super slow-motion later. Also, you can take photos with Smart AUTO settings to ensure you get the best possible shots in any lighting conditions. Perfect for holiday parties.
Available at major electronic retailers



Despicable Me DVD & Blu-Ray
One of this year's cutest and most heart-warming flicks, Despicable Me is a gem that finds fans among kids and adults alike. Steve Carell lends his voice to the criminal mastermind whose heart gets melted by the love of three orphan girls. And the animation is outstanding. **Available at major retailers**



100 Classic Books
$19.95 for Nintendo DS, DSi and DSi XL
Nintendo's DS family of systems has proven quite the versatile platform and now you can read some of your favourite classics by authors like Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Jules Verne between gaming sessions. Just turn your DSi XL on its side and the two screens become two pages you can turn by swiping the stylus. **Available at major electronic retailers**



Twilight Book Set
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If you're going to read Stephanie Meyer's best-selling Twilight saga you won't want to digest it piecemeal. Enter the Twilight Book Set, which includes everything you'll need to sink your teeth into some vampire lore this Christmas.
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To register and for full contest details visit clubmetro.com

4 sports

Shutout. Intact.



▶ Saint Mary's Huskies goaltender Neil Conway is turned every which way in the crease as he looks for the puck during last night's Atlantic University Sport men's hockey game at the Forum. Conway turned aside 26 shots as the Huskies blanked the Acadia Axemen 4-0 and improved to second overall with a 9-4-1 record.

DARRELL OAKE/FOR METRO

Another one slips away

Herd cough up lead after racking up penalties



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

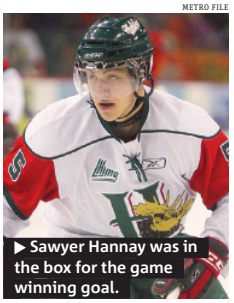
As far as head coach Bobby Smith is concerned, his Halifax Mooseheads wasted a solid effort by taking a handful of dumb penalties.

The Mooseheads lost their fourth straight game last night in Shawinigan, Que., falling 2-1 to the host Cataractes at Centre Bionest.

After Charles Bety put them up 1-0 midway through the first period, the Mooseheads paraded to the penalty box, with Sawyer Hannay and Martin Frk taking minors late in the first and Hannay making a return trip with a double-minor early in the second.

The Cataractes scored both their goals during that stretch, with Maximilien Le Sieur's game winner coming at 4:57 of the second during the second part of the 18-year-old Hannay's double-minor.

METRO FILE



▶ Sawyer Hannay was in the box for the game winning goal.

"Those penalties cost us the game," Smith said. "They were (undisciplined). I wasn't happy about it. Not only do you have to kill a penalty, you end up with offensive players sitting on the bench for a long time."

Strangely enough, the Mooseheads' penalty parade came on the same night they faced Garrett Clarke for the first time since trading him to the Cataractes last week. The 18-year-old defenceman parted ways with the Herd in part because a lack of on-ice discipline.

Clarke put zeros across the game sheet, although he would have assisted on a first-period goal that was waved off because of a high stick.

Mooseheads veteran goalie Mathieu Corbeil made 34 saves in what Smith described as an "excellent" showing, while Cataractes stopper Alex Dubeau was the No. 1 star with 26 saves.

"It was an excellent game for us — we had four lines rolling all game," Smith said. "But they scored two goals (because of penalties) and took our momentum right out of the game."

The Mooseheads, 9-19-1, are back in action tomorrow against the Val-d'Or Foreurs.

Former Moose crosses line, gets banned

Spencer Metcalfe was slapped with a two-game suspension, cost his team $500, and owes one of his peers an apology.

The former Halifax Mooseheads defenceman, now with the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, earned the punishment for "inappropriate comments" directed toward Lewiston Maineiacs defenceman Olivier Dame-Malka during a game on Tuesday in Sydney.

"Our policy is based on the principle of zero tolerance and it applies to all comments which are deemed inappropriate," commissioner Gilles Courteau said in a press release.

The Screaming Eagles must pay the $500 fine and Metcalfe must contact Dame-Malka to apologize, the press release stated.

METRO

Free Rainmen tickets almost gone

The 9,600 complimentary tickets Rogers Communications donated for the Halifax Rainmen's Premier Basketball League pre-season opener on Dec. 16 are almost gone.

According to Rainmen public relations director Jillian Blackman, approximately 100 tickets are left for Rogers Slam Dunk Day, a 7 p.m. tilt between the Rainmen and the Saint John Mill Rats at the Metro Centre.

The remaining tickets are available at Ticket Atlantic outlets and the Metro Centre.

METRO

Two down, four more to go

The Halifax Rainmen cut two more hopefuls from their training camp roster yesterday, shipping out centre Kenny Tribbett and forward Damon Powell.

The moves leave the Rainmen with 14 players at camp, with 10 expected to make the final roster for the Premier Basketball League regular-season opener on Jan. 2.

METRO

METRO FILE



▶ DeAndre Thomas

Thomas to champs

The defending Premier Basketball League champion Lawton-Fort Sill Cavalry have brought former Halifax Rainmen centre DeAndre Thomas to training camp for a tryout.

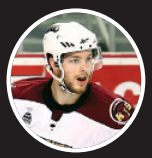
The six-foot-eight Thomas appeared in 10 games with the Rainmen last season, averaging 2.2 points per game.

METRO

Up and down

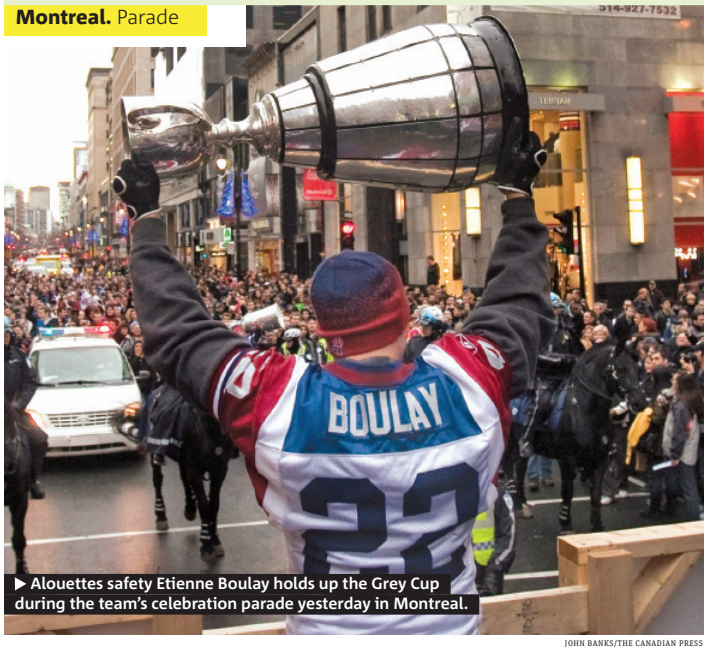
Joey MacDonald
The former Halifax Mooseheads goaltender from Bayview, Pictou Co., saw his brief stint with the Detroit Red Wings come to an end yesterday when he was sent to the American Hockey League's Grand Rapids Griffins. MacDonald made one appearance for the Red Wings as a fill-in for an injured Chris Osgood.





Andrew Gordon
The Porters Lake native and Hershey Bears forward is having a sensational season in the American Hockey League. Gordon, a Washington Capitals farmhand and two-time Calder Cup champion, sits atop the AHL scoring race with 15 goals and 30 points in 22 games.

Montreal. Parade



▶ Alouettes safety Etienne Boulay holds up the Grey Cup during the team's celebration parade yesterday in Montreal.

JOHN BANKS/THE CANDIAN PRESS

No rain for Alouettes' parade

They were predicting precipitation all day but it never wound up raining on the Montreal Alouettes' parade. The only hint of inclement weather was the perfectly grey sky — an ideal backdrop for celebrating a Grey Cup championship. The toast of the CFL rolled down Ste-Catherine Street on flatbed trucks, cheered by boisterous crowds while the only raining clouds were the confetti that fluttered down from the rooftops.

Is the pressure getting to Peyton?

Colts QB coming off one of worst months in his career

Peyton Manning insists nothing is wrong with his game.

His confidence remains high, he's still capable of running the Colts' precision offence to perfection and, at age 34, there's no indication his skills are slipping.

Still, something is not right with the four-time league MVP.

He threw nine interceptions and was sacked eight times in November, arguably the worst month since his rookie season, and now takes a 6-5 record into a December that likely will determine Indy's playoff fate.

These are unusual times for Manning and the Colts, who play host to Dallas Sunday.

"We're 6-5, you can argue that that is different," Manning said. "Out of sorts? No. Not confident? No. I would not agree with that. I feel that I need to play better for us to have a chance offensively to score more points and win. I need to protect the ball better. I need to find a way to convert third downs and keep us on the field."

"It happens from time to time, I think that's human nature. I think everybody probably tries to make some plays because you're looking for a spark."

COLTS DE DWIGHT FREENEY, WHEN ASKED IF MANNING IS TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH

Clearly, the problems are not all Manning's fault.

He lost All-Pro tight end Dallas Clark with a season-ending wrist injury Oct. 17.

Two-time 1,000-yard rusher Joseph Addai hasn't played since Oct. 17 because of a nerve injury in his left shoulder. Receiver Austin Collie has played only three quarters in the last five games because of a thumb injury and a concussion, and blocking tight end Brody Eldridge has been limited to action in only two of the last four games with a rib injury.

But injuries aren't the only concern.

The struggles have made one of the league's elite quarterbacks look ordinary. On Sunday night, Manning threw four interceptions for the first time in his career and the first was a ball Manning later acknowledged he should not have tried to force between three Chargers defenders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



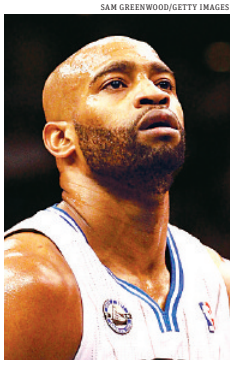


CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES



"This game is not just for us. It's the 20,000 fans and the millions watching who will be pulling for us. We've got people who aren't even Cavs fans who will be pulling for us. We've got a lot behind us."
CLEVELANDS' MO WILLIAMS

SAM GREENWOOD/GETTY IMAGES



"You just hope people don't cross the line. It's just basketball. It's sports. At the end of the day, he's a human being. Everybody has their right to be mad, pissed off, angry, hate, whatever. Just don't cross the line."
ORLANDO'S VINCE CARTER

LeBron set to take on his former team tonight

Into the storm

MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES



They're coming armed with lingering anger from an emotional summer breakup. They're going to yell and scream and vent at someone who did them wrong. It's the Akron kid they watched grow up, the one they loved, the one who restored hope ... only to rip their hearts out.

Indeed, Cleveland fans are on edge this week. And that can mean only one thing: LeBron James, Northeast Ohio's prodigal son, is coming home.

Tonight (9 p.m., TSN 2), James returns to a city he captivated for seven seasons to face the Cavaliers, his former team and a franchise he lifted to unimagined heights and almost to an NBA title. But when the 25-year-old, wearing a No. 6 Miami Heat jersey, steps onto the floor of Quicken Loans Arena as a visitor, he will be the enemy and the eye of a fierce storm he created.

"I think it's going to be very emotional for myself. I've got a lot of great memories in that city ... I give a lot of thanks to that city, lot of thanks to those fans for giving me the opportunity to not only showcase my talent but grow from a young boy to a man."
LEBRON JAMES

"I hope he's safe," said Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant. "Just from everything that happened this summer, fans are very upset."

This homecoming king won't be crowned or applauded, for sure. Not this time. Tonight, James will be surrounded — 20,000 against 1.

The same crowd he once thrilled will be outwardly hostile and hateful toward him, but, hopefully, harmless. He'll be booed, taunted and subjected to ridicule beyond his imagination.

"He deserves every bit of it," said Jim Osherow, a Cavaliers' season-ticket holder for 36 years.

"When you leave a team the way he did, that's what you got coming. It was rotten what he did. It's not just that he ruined the fans' expectations of him, but he ruined this franchise from being able to pick up any other free agents. Then he goes and has his own show? Wrong. Wrong, man."

James and Cavaliers fans went their separate ways in July. Five months later, they'll meet face to face with the potential for closure.

No one knows exactly what to expect before, during or after James' hyped return, a game Cleveland fans first circled on their calendars months ago and a nationally televised event that civic leaders and the NBA trust will not develop into an embarrassment.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

349
Cleveland won 349 games during James' seven seasons, second most in the Eastern Conference over that span.

Royal protection

Extra security measures have been implemented to prevent trouble and to protect James.

- The Heat typically distribute the team's travel itinerary as a courtesy to beat writers covering the team, but did not for the trip to Cleveland, which will begin following last night's home game against Detroit.
- The Cavaliers, who were James' caretakers for seven years, are taking extra steps to safeguard the two-time league MVP. There will be uniformed and undercover police officers in the stands, near Miami's bench and lining the tunnel area leading to the Heat locker-room.
- Fans will pass through metal detectors — as always when entering The Q — and any purchased beverages will be poured into cups so plastic bottles can't be thrown.
- Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert believes fans will react strongly ... but safely. "I really believe that Cleveland people will do the right thing," he said.

Cavaliers probing possible tampering by Heat

Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert insists he has moved on from LeBron James. But on to what?

Gilbert has reportedly enlisted a law firm to investigate the circumstances leading to James leaving Cleveland to sign with the Miami Heat this summer.

Yahoo! Sports reported yesterday that Gilbert has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to a Midwestern law firm to investigate suspicions that the Heat broke NBA tampering rules while pursuing James, who left the Cavs after seven seasons to join fellow stars Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade in Miami.

On Tuesday, Gilbert, who was highly critical of James following the superstar's televised announcement in July, was asked about his emotions heading into the reunion with the two-time league MVP.

"I'm over it," he said. "I really am. That's the truth. I let it all out in about 24 hours."
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JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES



"I'm sure the fans will have their LeBron Hate T-shirts, and all that stuff. But what does it mean? He'll still go out and get 40."
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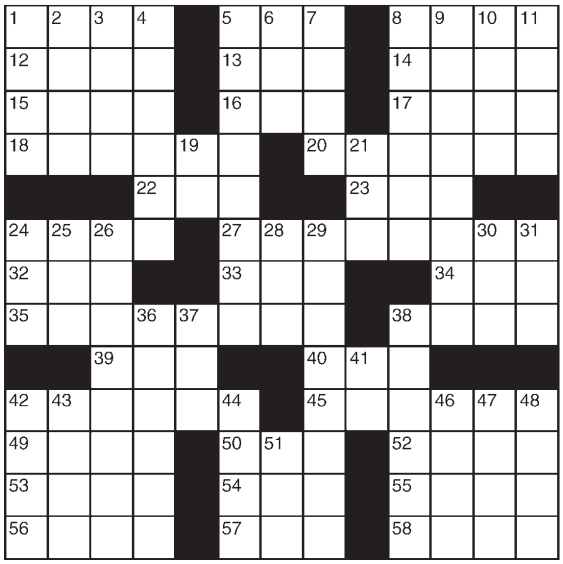
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Crossword



Across

1 "Mamma Mia" quartet
5 Silent
8 Federal agent
12 Tide type
13 Exploit
14 Entice
15 Lofty
16 America's uncle
17 One side of the Urals
18 Central
20 Trite
22 Extinct kin of the kiwi
23 Always, in verse
24 Door-frame piece
27 Woman's garment
32 — Dhabi
33 Astros' scoreboard abbr.
34 Rowing need
35 Profligates
38 Urban blight
39 Police officer
40 Hostel
42 Great emotional upset
45 Rough
49 Inning trio
50 Sheepish remark
52 Layer
53 Spool
54 Right angle
55 Family
56 Between jobs
57 "— the season ..."
58 Half the divorce settlement

Down

1 Opposed to
2 Kidney or fava
3 Ointment
4 Poise
5 Handlebar, for example
6 NAFTA signatory
7 Note to the staff
8 Open areas in the forest
9 Pizza topping
10 Met melody
11 Spruced up
19 Therefore
21 Floral garland
24 Leno's prominence
25 Lawyers' org.
26 Sweet variety of wine
28 Internet giant
29 Broadway offerings
30 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
31 Work unit
36 Muss up
37 Spinning rate (Abbr.)
38 Grab
41 "Forget it!"
42 Actress Spelling
43 Regretted
44 Help a hood
46 Anger
47 Burn somewhat
48 Sea flock
51 "The Greatest"53 Firmament

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	L	I	P	■	E	M	S	■	P	L	O	D
A	O	N	E	■	V	I	I	■	L	A	K	E
L	A	S	T	C	A	L	L	■	A	S	I	A
I	N	T	R	O	■	■	K	I	T	T	E	N
■	■	■	O	W	E	D	■	S	O	W	■	■
J	I	L	L	■	D	E	M	I	■	O	L	D
A	R	A	■	L	A	C	E	S	■	R	E	D
W	A	S	■	O	M	A	N	■	A	D	D	S
■	■	T	W	O	■	F	U	E	L	■	■	■
A	W	N	I	N	G	■	■	S	I	L	A	S
S	E	A	M	■	L	A	S	T	G	A	S	P
T	E	M	P	■	I	L	K	■	H	I	K	E
O	D	E	S	■	B	A	Y	■	T	R	A	D

Sudoku

	8		5		7		9	
		5				2		
	1		8		2		7	
	2	8				4	3	
1								6
	4	6				9	1	
	9		4		5		8	
		4				1		
	3		2		6		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

6	4	2	8	7	9	1	3	5
1	9	5	3	2	6	8	7	4
3	7	8	1	4	5	2	6	9
9	6	4	2	8	1	3	5	7
7	8	3	5	6	4	9	2	1
2	5	1	9	3	7	4	8	6
8	1	6	7	9	3	5	4	2
4	2	9	6	5	8	7	1	3
5	3	7	4	1	2	6	9	8

Send a KISS

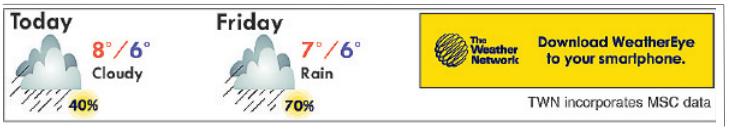
Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Haii Tiger! Happy birthday aka the anniversary of your umbilical cord separation! Hehe...mwuahh! I luff you sooo much and I hope you have a good day! You're the best hunnie. I love you <3
LOVE BUNNIE

Red, and yellow and pink and green, purple and orange and blue, you can see a rainbow, see a rainbow too. For my muffin.
LOVE COOKIE

Leandro, I'm already missing you! The trip was perfect. Thank you for everything. It's like a dream. **F.K.G.**

*To my better half, the possibilities of a future that is ours is endless. You are my every thought, breath, action and heartbeat. Through thick and thin, for better or worse soy solo tuyo, ahora y para siempre! *6* tu ya tienes mi amor*
XOXO, TU ESTRELLA



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Others may be impatient for you to commit yourself to their latest money-making scheme but you are right to think about it. How much will it cost if it goes wrong? Is there a get-out clause? Find out.

♉ Taurus April 21-May Today, friends and family members will be too busy looking out for their own interests to care too much about yours. But that's okay: You tend to do better when working alone.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A delay or setback may be annoying, but it's only temporary. Don't lose your cool. Have more patience with yourself and with others and, most importantly, think long term.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Others may be annoyed that you are holding on to the purse strings, but you know how quickly the money will go if you let them buy what they want. They'll thank you one day for being so sensible.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Passions are running high and there is no telling where it might lead. So, be careful when talking to people who seem a bit worked up. Don't do anything that might set them off.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Temptation is knocking today. Do you give in to your desires or do you keep them at bay? Only you can answer that question but remember this: it's not a sin to have fun.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Even if you're the kind of Libra who rarely gets emotional, you'll find it hard to control your feelings today. Perhaps you should let them out and make a spectacle of yourself.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Someone you live or work with seems determined to find fault with everything you do and it is beginning to get you down. Maybe it's time to rethink your relationship.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Close your ears to gossip and don't believe what other people tell you just because they believe it. Base your attitudes and actions on facts alone. If you don't know the facts, don't be judgmental.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may be tempted to get involved in a situation that is none of your business today. There are more productive things you could be doing with your time, such as finding new sources of income.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Others may be urging you to make changes but it's not the right time to throw everything up in the air and see how it lands.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Something you have grown used to will leave your life today and you will, of course, be sad. But you are making room for something even better to come in. It will arrive very soon. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

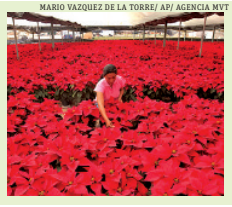


WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

MARIO VAZQUEZ DE LA TORRE/ AP/ AGENCIA MVT



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